

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8704

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2316

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, CI

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION RIGHTS: RIOS REQUEST FOR ILA SOLIDARITY

REFS: (A) STATE 080019 (B) SANTIAGO 2064 (C) SANTIAGO 458

(D) SANTIAGO 0808 (E) BRUSSELS 05128

1. EDUARDO RIOS, PRESIDENT OF THE MARITIME CONFEDERATION TOLD EMBOFFS THAT HE PREFERRED TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH GLEASON POSSIBLE METHODS BY WHICH THE ILA CAN EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH THE MARITIME CONFEDERATION (COMACH). TO THIS END RIOS RENEWS HIS INVITATION TO GLEASON TO VISIT CHILE TO GAIN A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THE SITUATION OF WORKERS AND TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS UNDER THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, AND TO TALK TO GOC OFFICIALS. RIOS SAID INITIALLY HE HAD WISHED TO TRAVEL TO NEW YORK. HOWEVER, HE HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE THIS DECISION UNTIL AFTER HE TALKS WITH ICFTU'S ENZIO FRIZO AND ORIT'S JUAN JOSE DEL PINO WHO PLAN TO VISIT CHILE APRIL 3.

2. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE A GLEASON VISIT TO CHILE WAS PLANNED THIS PAST FEBRUARY, BUT WAS CANCELLED. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT SUCH A VISIT. DESPITE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN GOC, GLEASON HAS GOOD RAPPORT WITH MANY OFFICIALS HERE, AND, MORE IMPORTANT, WOULD BE LISTENED TO. A SCHEDULED GLEASON VISIT, EVEN IF NOT FOR ONE OR TWO MONTHS, COULD SERVE TO DELAY
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GOC ACTIONS AGAINST COMACH AND RIOS. A WRITTEN PROTEST TO PINOCHET OR LABOR MINISTER VASCO COSTA IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE EVEN THIS MUCH IMPACT.

3. RIOS, WHILE WELCOMING GLEASON VISIT, HAS EVEN STRONGER MEASURES IN MIND. HE SUGGESTS A PARTIAL BOYCOTT, SUCH AS A SINGLE ONE-TIME REFUSAL TO UNLOAD A CHILEAN SHIP, AS THE KIND OF ACTION THAT

MIGHT MAKE THE GOC RECONSIDER ITS PRESENT PLANS. THIS, IN OUR JUDGMENT, WOULD BE A MISTAKE AT THIS TIME. IT WOULD BE PLAYED HERE AS ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE INCREASING POLITICAL PRESSURE BEING APPLIED AGAINST THE GOC, OF WHICH THE LETELIER CASE IS THE CENTERPIECE. THE GOC MIGHT WELL INTENSIFY ITS PRESSURE AGAINST RIOS AND OTHER "DINAMICOS" ON THIS PRETEXT. THE ONLY RESTRAINT WOULD BE A FEAR THAT SUCH A LIMITED U.S. BOYCOTT WOULD EXPAND IN THE U.S. AND BEYOND
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